

ZION'S PATH

Since 2005, a publication of the

**Church of Jesus Christ
Oak Grove Restoration Branch**

**Volume 18, Issue 1
January/February 2022**



“... and He will teach us of His ways, and we will walk in His paths ...” Isaiah 2:3

Be Prepared to Do Spiritual Warfare

SING HIS PRAISES!

HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION (also see HYMN #281—blue)

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in his excellent word;
What more can he say than to you he hath said,
Who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?

In every condition, in sickness, in health,
In poverty's vale or abounding in wealth,
At home or abroad, on the land or the sea,
As thy days may demand, so thy succor shall be.

Fear not, I am with thee; oh, be not dismayed,
For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
Upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

The soul that on Jesus still leans for repose,
I will not, I cannot desert to his foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no never forsake!

Wednesday night November 3, 2021, words of a prayer: Be prepared to be moved, changed, to be all He calls us to be. Repent on our knees in humility. Be a sanctuary, because He lives! Hope. Trust. See His power in our lives!

Wednesday night, November 10, 2021, during a prayer, the thunder of the storm outside the sanctuary literally shook us! Yet we were safe.

Our God is powerful!

MEDITATE ON GOD'S PROMISES!

Jeremiah 29:11 “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord—thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you an expected end.”

1 Peter 5:5-11 **5** “. . . for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. **6** Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time,

7 Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

8 Be sober. Be vigilant because your adversary, the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour—

9 Whom resist, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

10 But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.

11 To him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.”

IN THIS ISSUE

Branch Website	2
Building Committee	3
Adult Classes	4
Christmas 2021	5
Word of Wisdom	6
Upcoming Events	7

INSERTS

- ◆ Worship Schedule
- ◆ Youth Page
Coloring Page
- ◆ 2022 Themes
D&C 86
- ◆ Men's Retreat
Women's Class

Are You Utilizing our Church Website? --- by Charlie Booth

Our website:
www.ogrb.org



Have you checked out our branch website lately? Let's take a look at some of the key features.

1. The **Home Page** has a picture of the church, contact information, and a link for online donations. In the upper right corner is the website menu button.
2. The second page, **What We Believe**, includes the Epitome of Faith, by Joseph Smith, Jr.
3. Page 3 has our yearly/monthly themes, plus current **Worship Schedules**. In addition, the daily/hourly schedules are included for Sundays and Wednesdays, as well as a button for a map to the church.
4. The fourth page, entitled **Videos**, has links to our Livestream video channel, where you can watch recorded services from the past, as well as live services while they are taking place. The page also includes listings of all services from the past couple of years.
5. The next page is **Our Publications**. Here you will find links to recent issues of our branch newsletter, "Zion's Path." There are also links to recent online copies of "Zion's Call," which is filled with testimonies of God's love, written by not only members of our branch but also by other Saints in many parts of His vineyard.
6. Page 6 contains many publications by our **Women's Department**, including Bulletin Inserts, Devotionals, Zion Flashcards, and links to Video Classes sponsored by the RWC (Restoration Women's Council).
7. **Stewardship and Accounting** is the next page, and it includes another link for online donations, as well as downloadable forms for the following:
 - First Tithing Statement—Adults
 - Annual Tithing Statement—Adults
 - First Tithing Statement—Children
 - Annual Tithing Statement—Children
 - Tithing Statement Guide
 - Annual Tithing Statement (an editable Excel spreadsheet)
8. Page 8 is called **Resources and Links**. It includes a downloadable Branch Membership Form, various publications (including the Patriarchs' pamphlet from 2002) and a slide presentation on Sharing Our Unique Restoration Beliefs. In addition, there are multiple links to other Restoration websites, including a Scripture Search, Centerplace.org, and book publishers/sellers.
9. The final webpage includes our branch **Policies and Bylaws**, including our Child Protection Policy, Marriage Policy, Branch Bylaws, Use of Facilities, and Storage & Donation Policy.

Let me know if something needs updating or if you'd like to see something else on the site!

OGRB Pastorate

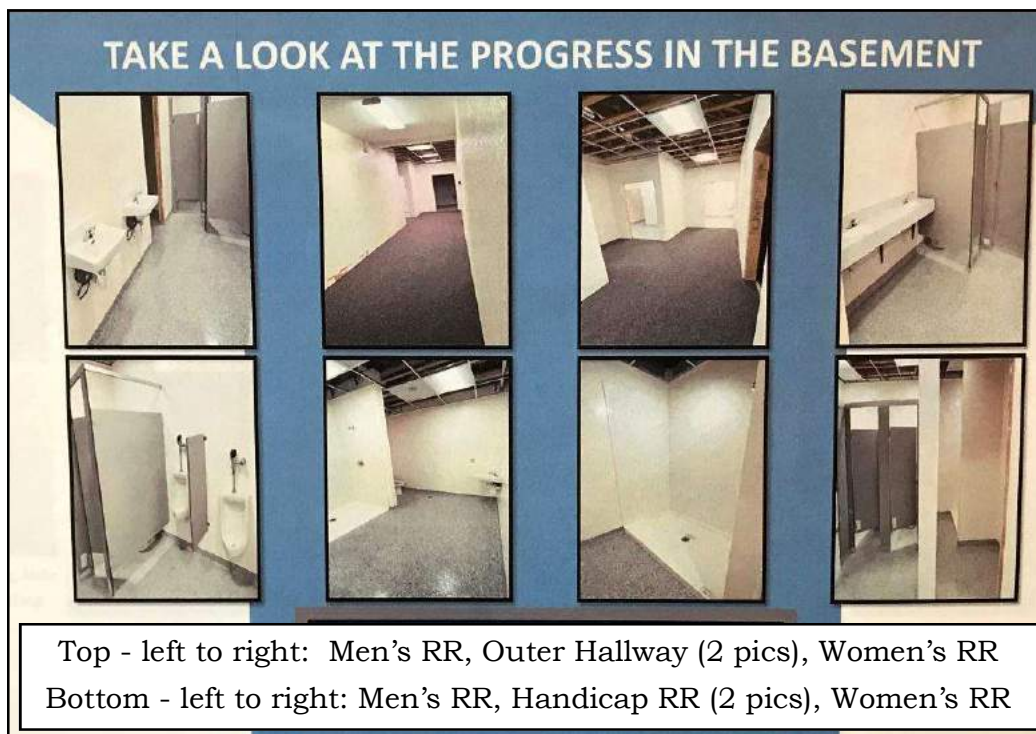
Presiding Elder: Don Norman
Associates: Elder Mark Nunn
Elder Aaron Smith
Elder Aaron Norman

Building Committee Report --- by Becky Ballantyne

2021 was a very busy year for building and maintenance projects at Oak Grove Restoration Branch. Earlier in the year, to remedy basement leaks and prepare for the downstairs restrooms project, an underground drainage system was installed on the north side of the building to direct water away from the basement. And just recently, an underground drainage system was connected to gutters to direct water around the front and south side of the building. In connection with that project, the old shrubs were removed and new landscaping planted, with new mulch and stone edging added. We should really notice a difference this spring when the new plants start to grow!



The biggest undertaking in 2021 was the addition of the new downstairs restrooms. With the exception of a few finishing touches, they are now completed! The building committee is very appreciative of the support received from the congregation, both in time and financial resources. Not only will our current membership benefit from this project, but you have provided for future generations. And, thousands of dollars were saved by donated labor. If you haven't been downstairs to see them, please take a look when you have a minute.



Adult Sunday School Class (9:15 to 10:15 a.m., except 1st Sunday)

November 2021

“Tell My People: Foretold Calamities Are Coming to Cleanse My People and the Land of Zion” Class - Taught by Elder Bill Jones

In November we discussed the portion of Walter Weldon’s experience in which the Lord instructed him to express the words, “Tell My people: Foretold calamities are coming to cleanse My people and the land of Zion.”

It was brother Weldon’s contention the calamities were coming because we, as God’s people, failed to appropriately respond to His word or His covenants by our hesitancy and procrastination. He also pointed out that all through history God has promised to spare the more righteous if they would repent.

The content of the lesson posed the questions, “Do we understand the day in which we live? Do we understand what is expected of God’s people? Do we go forward prepared or unprepared? Are we aware?”

The following observations were discussed by the class: We talked about the implications of D&C 1:3d-e in which men have strayed from God’s ordinances and broken His everlasting covenant and seek not to establish His righteousness, and they walk in their own way. We talked about the fact that we live in a day when scripture has been fulfilled and is being fulfilled; a day in which Christ restored His Church; a day seen by John the Revelator when he saw the angel fly thru the midst of heaven having the EVERLASTING GOSPEL to restore to men on the earth and proclaiming “Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come” (Revelation 14:7).

As the class progressed thru the month we came to acknowledge we live in the last days when the restoration of the Gospel was to be the sign of the beginning of Judgment, when the wheat is still mixed with the tares, when good and evil still grow together, side by side and will continue to do so until the end of the world.

The warning put forth by brother Weldon was that we would not forget the importance of the restoring of the Everlasting Gospel and Christ’s Church and not procrastinate in our responsibilities of taking Christ’s message to the world, sounding the word of warning; working for Zion and the kingdom and proclaiming the return of Christ.

December 2021

“Tell My Priesthood: Go ye out from among the wicked, save yourselves, be ye clean that bear the vessels of the Lord”

Class-Taught by Elder Vim Horn

Brother Weldon states that this 12th statement, as the previous ones, was **given to membership and the priesthood of His Church alike, that we might be prepared to fulfill His purposes in these momentous times**. While relevant to membership, the statement is primarily an admonition directed to the priesthood that they need to be serious about their priesthood covenant if they expect to participate in the work. In looking at the scripture that’s part of the statement, the following interpretation concerning priesthood was shared:

- *Go ye out from among the wicked*, – Priesthood are called, separated in the world, from the world, in a special way to accomplish God’s Holy work throughout all ages.
- *Save yourselves*, – Priesthood is a particular covenant/oath, that once entered into, must not be broken but faithfully adhered to.
- *Be ye clean that bear the vessels of the Lord*. – Priesthood authority/effectiveness requires adhering to the high standard of the calling of priesthood.

Brother Weldon points out that the early church received some important direction concerning priesthood. He shared a number of them which were elaborated on in the class, using several outlines with the following headings:

- *God Calls Men to His Holy Work in this Age, as in All Ages*
- *The Purpose of God’s Holy Priesthood and How It’s Obtained*
- *The Nature and High Calling of God’s Holy Priesthood in the Hastening Time*

Brother Weldon states, “On the level on which my people are now living they will not be able to build the kingdom.” The overall message of this final statement is that God’s priesthood needs to prepare to watch over His Church, that in turn the people might be prepared. The priesthood needs to come out of the world, embrace their covenant, and be clean in order to faithfully bear the vessels of the Lord in this—the final part of the hastening time.

Christmas 2021



Women's Department Christmas Party



Bell Choir



Christmas Card Exchange Box



Children's Program



Mixed Voice Choir

Watch the Children's Program and Choirs by going to OGRB.org and click on "Videos" (Dec. 19th services).

The Word of Wisdom

To Whom and for Whom Was it Given?

Is it a Law to All Saints?

By Louise Gregson

Note: Louise's 100th birthday is coming up in May of 2022!

While at a conference of high priests at Kirtland, Ohio, February 27, 1833, a revelation was given through Joseph Smith, Jr.; now known as The Word of Wisdom.

Some of the men were not willing to accept what Joseph presented to them, because they were still clinging to old habits that they had not discarded when they joined the church. They were very upset and said if Joseph published it as law to the church they would leave!

It was then presented as a word of wisdom for the benefit of high priests assembled at Kirtland, and the church, and also the saints in Zion. To be sent greeting, not by commandment or for constraint, but by revelation, and the word of wisdom showing forth the order and will of God in the temporal salvation of all saints in the last days. Given for a principle with promise, adapted to the capacity, and the weakest of all saints, who are who can be called saints.

In the record "Times and Seasons," The Word of Wisdom is mentioned briefly, Volume 3, pg. 799 to 801. In the Kirtland Elders Journal, it is recorded as a revelation from God. How shabbily we have treated the Word of God. It is no wonder the saints have suffered so much and "...Zionic conditions are no further away nor any closer than the spiritual condition of My people justifies." (See Doctrine and Covenants 140:5c) Oh, hearken to the Words of our God and King!

Doctrine and Covenants 83:7-9b: 7a And now I give unto you a commandment to beware concerning yourselves, to give diligent heed to the words of eternal life; for you shall live by every word that proceedeth forth from the mouth of God. 7b For the word of the Lord is truth, and whatsoever is truth is light, and whatsoever is light is Spirit, even the Spirit of Jesus Christ;

7c and the Spirit giveth light to every man that cometh into the world; and the Spirit enlighteneth every man through the world, that hearkeneth to the voice of the Spirit; 7d and everyone that hearkeneth to the voice of the Spirit, cometh unto God, even the Father; 7e and the Father teacheth him of the covenant which he has renewed and confirmed upon you, which is confirmed upon you for your sakes, and not for your sakes only, but for the sake of the whole world: 7f and the whole world lieth in sin, and groaneth under the darkness and under the bondage of sin: 7g and by this you may know they are under the bondage of sin, because they come not unto me; for whoso cometh not unto me is under the bondage of sin; 7h and whoso receiveth not my voice is not acquainted with my voice, and is not of me; 7i and by this you may know the righteous from the wicked, and that the whole world groaneth under sin and darkness even now.

8a And your minds in times past have been darkened because of unbelief, and because you have treated lightly the things you have received, which vanity and unbelief hath brought the whole church under condemnation. 8b And this condemnation resteth upon the children of Zion, even all; and they shall remain under this condemnation until they repent and remember the new covenant, even the Book of Mormon and the former commandments which I have given them, not only to say, but to do according to that which I have written, 8c that they may bring forth fruit meet for their Father's kingdom, otherwise there remaineth a scourge and a judgment to be poured out upon the children of Zion; for, shall the children of the kingdom pollute my holy land? Verily, I say unto you, Nay.

. . . Continued on page 7

The Word of Wisdom -- by Louise Gregson

(. . . Continued from page 6)

9a Verily, verily I say unto you, who now have my words, which is my voice, **9b** Blessed are ye inasmuch as you receive these things; for I will forgive you of your sins with this commandment, that you remain steadfast in your minds in solemnity, and the spirit of prayer, in bearing testimony to all the world of those things which are communicated unto you.

Heavenly Father, help us as we strive to implement The Word of Wisdom in our daily lives, that our minds may not be darkened with unbelief, and that we might not treat lightly the words you have given us and apply them in our lives daily.

As a child growing up in the Hawaiian Islands, the motto of the man who led his armies to victory on land and on the sea was "Imua" (pronounced E-mu-a). It means "Go Forward!"

With God at our head let us "go forward" and not retreat! With Aloha!

"And all Saints who remember to keep and do these sayings, walking in obedience to the commandments, shall receive health in their navel, and marrow to their bones, and shall find wisdom and great treasures of knowledge, even hidden treasures; and shall run and not be weary, and shall walk and not faint; and I, the Lord, give unto them a promise that the destroying angel shall pass by them, as the children of Israel, and not slay them. Amen."

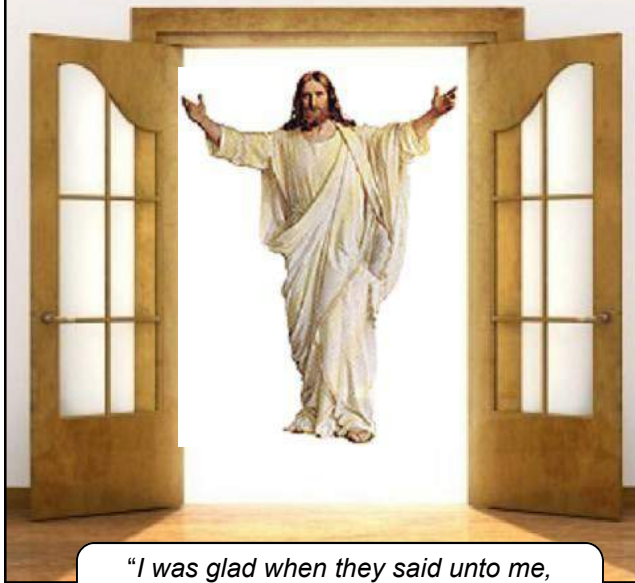
(Doctrine and Covenants 86:3c-d)

[Note: See insert for the complete text of Section 86.]

Upcoming Events

Jan 2	Aaronic Priesthood class 5:00pm	Feb 5	Women's Winter Gathering (sponsored by the Restoration Women's Council) at Missionary Restoration Branch "My Vessel is His"
Jan 6	Women's Meeting "Word of Wisdom" Class by Debbie Norman (congregation invited!) Dinner 6:30pm, Meeting 7:00pm	Feb 6	Aaronic Priesthood class 5:00pm
Jan 9	Elders' Class 7:30am Potluck Lunch (Word of Wisdom dishes)	Feb 11	Women's Meeting "Book Club" Book: "Emma Smith: The Elect Lady" Dinner 6:30pm, Meeting 7:00pm
Jan 16	Aaronic Priesthood class 5:00pm Priesthood Meeting after evening service	Feb 13	Elders' Class 7:30am Potluck Lunch
Jan 21-22	Priesthood & Men's Retreat at OGRB Sponsored by POZ, CMRB, and CRE Friday: 7:00-9:00pm Saturday: 8:30am-2:30pm (lunch provided)	Feb 20	Aaronic Priesthood class 5:00pm Priesthood Meeting after evening service
Jan 23	Elders' Class 7:30am	Feb 27	Elders' Class 7:30am

*Church of Jesus Christ
Oak Grove Restoration Branch*



*"I was glad when they said unto me,
Let us go into the house of the Lord."
(Psalm 122:1)*

**THIS NEWSLETTER IS AVAILABLE
ON OUR CHURCH WEBSITE.
Tell your neighbors, friends and family!**

Worship Schedule		Sacrament Service 1st Sunday of each month
		8:00 am Priesthood Prayer Service
Sunday Morning Early Worship	9:00 am	9:00 am Time of Quiet Meditation
Church School	9:15 am	9:15 am Prayer Service
		10:15 am Song Service
Sunday Morning Worship Service	10:30 am	10:30 am Sacrament Service
Sunday Evening Worship Service	6:30 pm	6:30 pm
Wednesday Evening Prayer and Testimony Service	7:00 pm	

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**Church of Jesus Christ
Oak Grove Restoration Branch
1203 N Broadway
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Church Phone: (816) 690-6996
Watch most of our services by going to
our church website! (Click on "Video")

Zioneers/Zion's League — by Valerie Lidberg

The Zion's League and Zioneers met on November 6th to clean the church and have a game night. The league members did a great job cleaning the church. We played a group game in which they had to figure out the correct path through a maze without talking to each other.

The group also sponsored a canned food drive, asking the members of our congregation to donate items, which were then taken to the Community Services League. Before the food drive started, each league member guessed how many cans would be donated. 508 cans were donated.



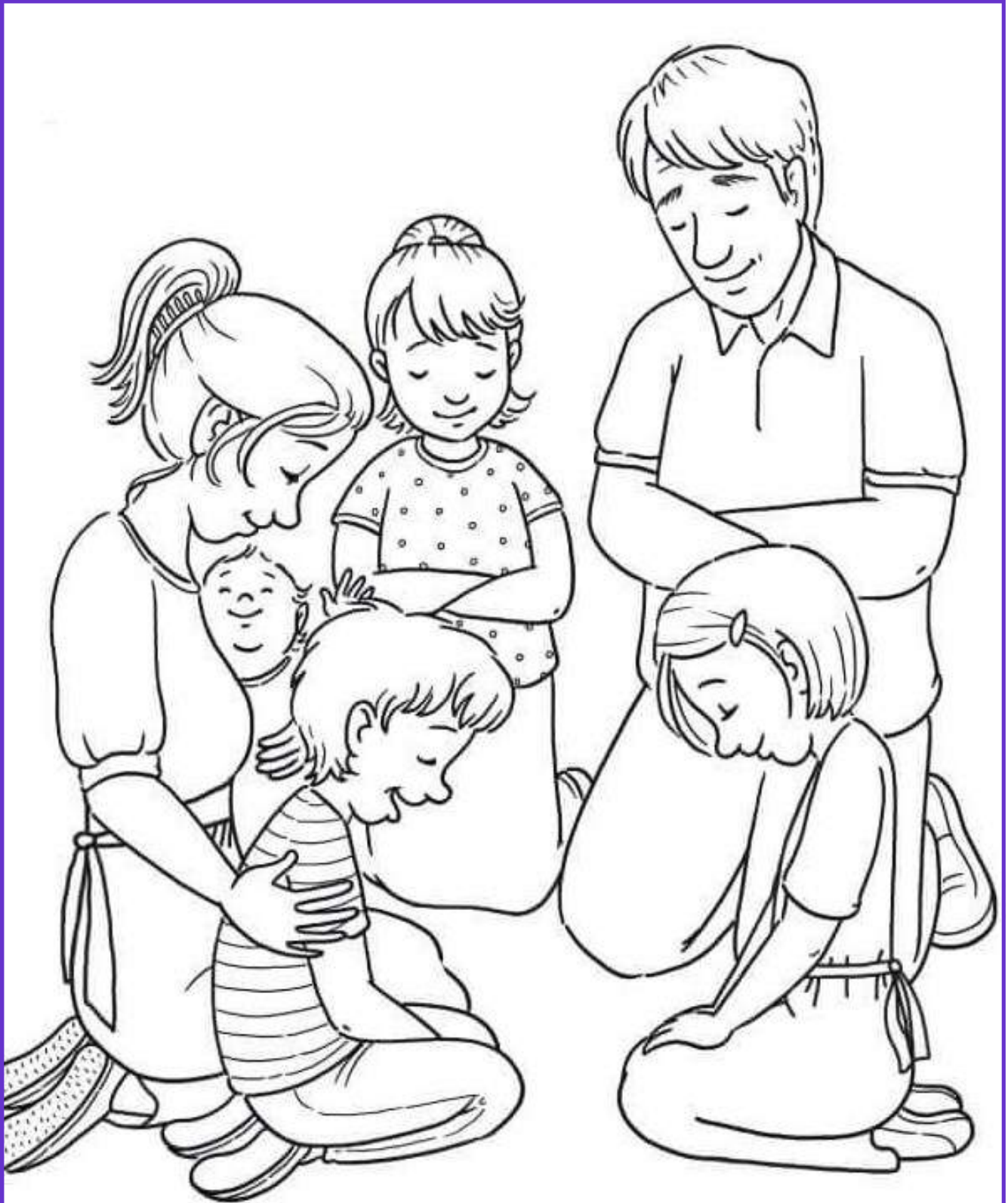
We played a few rounds of Cranium and ended the evening playing Sardines, which is always a big hit with this group.



Ben Lidberg had the closest guess, guessing 500 cans. He was awarded our traveling home-made "Golden Trophy" for guessing the closest. We appreciate all those who supported the youth by donating cans.

*Watch the bulletin and emails for upcoming events!
All youth in 6th grade thru 12th grade are invited to attend.*

Coloring Page



FAITH, PRAYER, REPENTANCE AND FORGIVENESS
STRENGTHEN ME AND MY FAMILY.